

Appendix C – Oral Health and I-Smile™ Program

I-Smile™ is a program designed to meet a legislative mandate that Medicaid-enrolled children ages 12 and younger have a designated dental home. The Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems manages I-Smile™, which serves as the oral health component of the Title V Maternal and Child & Adolescent Health Program.

I-Smile™ connects children, pregnant women, and families with dental, medical, and community resources to ensure a lifetime of health and wellness. The program focuses on preventing dental disease, identifying ways to help families receive care from dentists, and promotes the importance of oral health within Iowa communities. As part of I-Smile™, I-Smile™ @ School provides dental sealant and education services in schools to vulnerable children less likely to receive private dental care, such as children eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch programs. They are conducted in school settings, with teams of dental providers (which may include dentists, dental hygienists, and/or dental assistants) using portable dental equipment. School-based dental sealant programs seek to assure that children receive preventive dental services through a community-based approach.

Through an agreement between IDPH and Iowa Medicaid, care coordination and limited direct dental services provided by dental hygienists and/or nurses are reimbursable for MCAH contractors.

Minimum Program Requirements and Expected Outcomes:

Each CAH service area must have one Iowa-licensed dental hygienist serving as the I-Smile™ Coordinator. The coordinator must work a minimum of 32 to 40 hours a week to build public health system capacity and assure enabling/population-based oral health services. These activities lead to a strong local oral health infrastructure; availability of dental referral networks; oral health promotion and public awareness about oral health; and help for families to access oral health care. The I-Smile™ Coordinator is the single point of contact for I-Smile™ activities.

Each I-Smile™ Coordinator is responsible for ensuring I-Smile™ strategies are met.

Key I-Smile™ activities include:

- Strengthening the public health dental system by providing outreach and developing partnerships, participating in health planning and needs assessments, promoting oral health, and addressing health disparities.
- Establishing the I-Smile™ referral network, building relationships with dental offices through regular visits and creating referral tracking systems.
- Linking with local boards of health to assist in assessment, policy development, and assurance of oral health initiatives – including working with the LBOH to assure a local system is in place to meet the school dental screening requirements.
- Providing education and training for health care professionals regarding oral health.

- Promoting oral health through participation at community events, outreach to pediatric, obstetric and family practice medical offices, outreach to pediatric and general practice dental offices, and population-based oral health education.
- Providing training and oversight of Title V agency staff involved in oral health services.
- Working with agency staff to develop oral health protocols.
- Providing dental care coordination services for children and pregnant women to facilitate dental visits for regular preventive care and restorative care when needed.
- Ensuring completion of risk assessments, oral screenings, and gap filling preventive services such as fluoride varnish applications, and/or prophylaxes.
- Managing the I-Smile™@School program within the service area through identifying eligible schools, providing education and preventive services to a minimum number of students annually.
- National Performance Measure (NPM):
 - NPM #13A: Percent of women who had a dental visit during pregnancy, and;
 - NPM #13B: Percent of infants and children, ages 1-17 years, who had a preventive dental visit in the last year
- State Performance Measure (SPM):
 - SPM #3: Percent of children with a payment source for dental care

The full program overview for the I-Smile™ Program can be found at <http://idph.iowa.gov/ohds>